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1. Prof. Gustav Hertz, Leipzig, at an unspecified date during the recent past, had a showdown with Prof. Robert Rompe, head of the Second Physical Institute at Humboldt University and head of the Academy Institute for Radiation Sources Research in East Berlin. The showdown was prompted by a sharp difference of opinion between the two scientists concerning the main lines to be followed in physical research in East Germany. Hertz was aware of the fact that Rompe, during the earliest period of East Germany's existence, had wielded strong political influence on scientific development and that, when he later lost much of his political influence, he continued to determine the scientific orientation of physical research in East Germany.
2. Hertz's position was based on his findings with respect to the status of physical research in East Germany. When it came to drawing up definite plans for an East German atomic energy program, Hertz found that the vast majority of young physicists available in East Germany were not able to carry out exact experiments and failed to realize the significance of exactitude in physical research. As a result, he found that it would be very hard, if not impossible, to find adequate physical personnel in East Germany to establish and carry out the atomic energy program.
3. During the discussion, Hertz informed Rompe of the results of his findings and stated that Rompe was responsible for this state of things. He reproached Rompe for having cultivated general lines for East German physical research in which "broad and vague conceptions" played the main role to the detriment of exact experimentation. He added that he counted on a maximum of from 10 to 15 more years of life and that he was firmly determined to change the state of things during this period. He went as far as to charge Rompe with the responsibility for delays in carrying out the East German atomic energy program which would certainly be caused by the faulty lines of physical research enforced so far. Hertz intimated that he would leave East Germany if he did not succeed in a reasonably short time in entirely reorienting the lines followed by East German physical research.
4. It appears that, at least for the present, Hertz has succeeded in convincing the East German government of the necessity of reforming scientific education in East Germany along the lines endorsed by him. As a result, Rompe's position in East

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Germany, which during the last years had already lost much of its former importance, has reached a new low. It is, however, not certain that Hertz's views will ultimately prevail over those of Kompe.

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